

# BUILDING OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

## OUR MISSION

As stewards of a one-of-a-kind space, The Mount Community Centre contributes to well-being by increasing access to housing, food and community services.



MARCH  
2020

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE – STAYING POSITIVE

These are challenging and unprecedented times. We hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy as we navigate through the challenges of Covid-19.

In response to the Covid-19 situation, The Mount Community Centre closed its doors on Friday, March 20. TMCC cancelled all community events, bookings and meeting reservations until further notice. Prior to that, TMCC staff worked diligently to ensure the health and safety of tenants, staff, volunteers and visitors. As the situation evolved, staff, volunteers and business tenants were encouraged to work from home.

The social and economic implications of this crisis makes the vision for TMCC even more urgent. Despite the generous support by the Federal and Provincial governments, it is likely this crisis will put more pressure on families with lower incomes, challenging their ability to afford housing and food.

The *Building Opportunity Campaign* Cabinet has chosen to refocus its efforts at this time and focus on communications and planning for the future. We will continue to keep you updated on the project and celebrate our progress in support of the community.

Even in challenging times, we are also enjoying the arrival of Spring. It was an inspiring sight to see the students of the Hardwood Nature School tapping trees for maple syrup!

This winter we continued to experience the generosity of our community. Since our last newsletter, Kawartha Credit Union

provided us with a \$1,000 donation through their Community Involvement Program. The *Building Opportunity Campaign* also received two generous anonymous donations – \$50,000 and \$200,000 – gifts that will make a significant difference in helping us achieve our fundraising goal, and to realize the vision for TMCC.

We look forward to continuing our work, supported by a commitment of \$280,000 through Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI), a fund designed to address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair and new construction. These funds were awarded through our ongoing partnership with the City of Peterborough.

Spring also welcomes the tenants for Shared Dreams– the final approvals are done and we look forward to an official ribbon cutting ceremony in the coming months to celebrate the opportunity this project brings and all of the hard work and volunteers who have made it happen.

Our most exciting news is that with the community's support, the *Building Opportunity Campaign* has achieved 93% of our overall campaign goal!

For all of the up-to-date TMCC Campaign news, follow us on Instagram (@tmcc\_campaign!)



# REMEMBERING BILL GRAHAM

## 1953 - 2020

I had the pleasure of meeting Bill many years ago through his work with Trent Security - he wired my first office building. And, through time and other opportunities, we became friends.

I would describe Bill as trustworthy, honourable, credible and compassionate. As the earlier days of our relationship were more professional, it was when he joined The Mount Community Centre that I truly saw the compassion.

Bill was quite a conversationalist. He loved to take time to talk with people - he could identify with anyone. I always enjoyed our conversations, as we saw each other weekly through the Rotary Club. One day, as we were setting up fireworks for a local event, I discovered that Bill was a boating enthusiast. And I just happened to be looking for a boat. Bill said, 'I have the boat for you.' He invited me back to his house and, to say the least, there were boats everywhere. I bought a boat and motor from him and we still use them today.

When I heard that Bill was interested in joining TMCC, I knew we wanted him to be involved. When asked what he wanted to do, he replied, 'Whatever you want me to do is what I'll do.'

From that point on, he became an integral member of the team at TMCC. He joined the Board and chaired our Phase Two Construction Committee. He was right at the heart of TMCC - a member of the core team. He was particularly adept at finding in-kind contributions! He was always 15 minutes early to each meeting which meant we always had to have the coffee on early before he arrived. From the time he joined the Board, I believe, he was an integral reason for our moving forward; in a very large way, I believe he was largely responsible for the growth of TMCC.

Bill Graham was a true champion of this project. He always dared to challenge us and believe in our vision. His legacy in the community is significant and we are proud that TMCC is part of that legacy.

*Reflections by Steve Kylie,  
TMCC Board Chair*



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